

### **REMARKS**

Claim 27 is pending in the above-identified application. Claims 1-26 were previously cancelled. (See, July 25, 2003 Preliminary Amendment).

In the Office Action of January 29, 2009, claim 27 was rejected.

With this Amendment, claim 27 is amended.

#### **I. 35 U.S.C. § 103 Obviousness Rejection of Claims**

Claim 27 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being as being unpatentable over *Nishizawa* (U.S. Pat. No. 5,122,881) (“*Nishizawa*”). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

In relevant part, independent claim 27 now recites a solid state imaging sensor including a reset element and a common power supply where the reset element consists of a depletion type transistor and the voltage of the common power supply is fixed.

*Nishizawa* fails to disclose anything pertaining to a common power supply connecting to a fixed voltage source or having a reset element which consists of a depletion type transistor. Instead, *Nishizawa* discloses a power supply which connects to a reset element to provide a “high level timing signal” and not a constant voltage. See, U.S. Pat. No. 5,122,881, Col. 5, l. 31 - Col. 6, l. 43. Further, *Nishizawa* discloses a reset element which is an enhancement type transistor. See, U.S. Pat. No. 5,122,881, Figs. 2 & 9.

As the Applicant’s specification discloses, by providing a solid state imaging sensor including a reset element and a common power supply where the reset element consists of a depletion type transistor and the voltage of the common power supply is fixed, the depletion type transistor acts in a linear region such that the source potential of the transistor substantially reaches the drain potential to completely reset the photodiode. See, U.S. Pat. Pub. No.

2005/0088548, Para. [0087]. As the Applicants have learned, if an enhancement type transistor is used as a reset transistor, the reset transistor will act in the saturation region when a voltage is applied from a power supply to the drain electrode such that the source potential of the transistor is rendered lower than the drain potential causing some charge to remain in the photodiode which results in a residual image. See, U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2005/0088548, Para. [0078]. Since *Nishizawa* discloses providing a timing signal from a power supply and using an enhancement type transistor as the reset element, it is incapable of providing the same benefit.

Therefore, because *Nishizawa* fails to disclose or even fairly suggest all of the features of the claim 27, the rejection cannot stand.

**II. Conclusion**

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all claims are clearly allowable over the cited prior art, and respectfully requests early and favorable notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: /David R. Metzger/  
David R. Metzger  
Registration No. 32,919  
SONNENSCHNEIDER NATH & ROSENTHAL LLP  
P.O. Box 061080  
Wacker Drive Station, Sears Tower  
Chicago, Illinois 60606-1080  
(312) 876-8000